3. *The genus* Anobium *Thunb.* By H. Andreae, D.Sc., Hon. Curator of Coleoptera, South African Museum.

In *Novae Insectorum Species*, I, 1781, p. 8, Thunberg established his genus *Anobium* with six species, all recorded from South Africa, three from other countries also; this caused some trouble and was not accepted by other entomologists. Fabricius in *Mantissa Insectorum*, 1787, p. 35, mentions only two as synonyms, the others he could obviously not identify, and in the Junk catalogue, part 23, 1910, three are mentioned, the others remain *species dubiae*.

Thunberg's description: 'Antennae clava perfoliata, triarticulata. Thorax marginatus, rotundatus. Corpus convexum, lineari-oblongum. Elytra flexilia.' looks rather vague, but it actually applies only to some *Cleridae*, subfam. *Corynetinae*,* and even here the genera *Tenerus* Cast., *Tarsostenus* Spin., *Corynetinus* Reitt. and *Opetiopalpus* Spin. are excluded; only seven genera with together twenty-three species described from South Africa and some unnamed species in the South African Museum's collection were left. Under these circumstances it was not difficult to identify all Thunberg's species.

1. *A. ruficolle* Thunb., l.c., p. 8, is now *Necrobia ruficollis* F., as stated by Fabricius and Junk, *Catalogus*; a cosmopolitan.

2. *A. capense* Thunb., l.c., p. 9, is now *Prosymnus capensis* (Thunb.), so far unknown. Three unnamed specimens in the museum's collection agree with the description, except the base of the antennae, joints 1–6, which are rufo-testaceous; this is unimportant, the rufous or testaceous base of antennae has also been overlooked in No. 4 and No. 6. The fasciae of the elytra are formed by white appressed hairs, elsewhere the upper side bears unusually long and strong black bristles. The terminal joints of maxillary and labial palpi are elongate triangular, and the femora are deeply grooved on the under side. The species shows all the important characters of *Prosymnus* Cast., the different vestiture of the elytra alone would not justify the establishing of a new genus. Length 3·5 to 5 mm. Apparently rare. Cape: Cape Town, coll. J. C. Bridwell; Kalk Bay, coll. R. M. Lightfoot; Bredasdorp, coll. H. Fry.

* In *Nova Acta Soc. Sc. Upsala*, VII, 1821, p. 174, Thunberg described *Dasytes opacus* and *D. rufipes*, and transferred his *Anobium coeruleum* and *A. viride* to the genus *Dasytes*, citing the transfer of *coeruleum* to *Dasytes* by Fabricius (*Syst. Eleuth.*, II, 1801, p. 75) and accepting it, although both species are really *Cleridae* and have nothing to do with *Dasytes*. *Dasytes rufipes* Thunb., so far not identified, is according to the description certainly different from *Anobium rufipes* Thunb. and probably a *Dasytes*.

3. *A. bifasciatum* Thunb., l.c., p. 9. Now *Thriocera bifasciata* Thunb., syn. *T. bifasciata* Hintz. The two descriptions agree very well, but Thunberg's figure (rather poor and not agreeing with the description) has probably so far prevented the identification. Cape: widely distributed but rare. Described by Hintz (*Deutsche Ent. Zeitschr.*, 1902, p. 403) as *T. bifasciata* from Dunbrody, two spec., probably coll. Father O'Neil; by Gorham (*Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, 1905, 2, p. 274) as *T. bicinctella* from Port Elizabeth, two spec., coll. Dr. H. Brauns. In South African Museum coll., one spec. from Dunbrody, apparently coll. by Father O'Neil, no date, and two from Knysna, Oct. 1916, coll. L. Peringuey. I found one at Parow near Cape Town, 28/8/47, and one on the farm Tierhoek, Piquetberg Mts., 19/10/47. The var. *tricolor* Hintz is recorded from Dunbrody (Hintz), 2 spec.), Port Elizabeth (Gorham, 2 spec.) and East London (South African Museum coll., Oct. 1912, R. M. Lightfoot, one spec.).

4. *A. viride* Thunb., l.c., p. 9, now type of the genus *Notostenus* Spin. (Clerites II, 1844, p. 89). A well-known species, frequent on flowers of the arum lily. Thunberg's statement: 'Habitat in Africa & India Orientali' is a mistake, the species is South African. One hundred and ten specimens in the South African Museum coll., mostly from the western Cape, but also from Port St. Johns and Durban.

5. *A. rufipes* Thunb., l.c., p. 10, is *Necrobia rufipes* De Geer. This was stated by Fabricius (*Mant. Ins.*, 1787, p. 35), but not taken over by Schenkling in Junk, *Catalogus*, part 23; a cosmopolitan.

6. *A. coeruleum* Thunb., l.c., p. 10, is a *Dolichopsis*, not a *Notostenus*, as stated in Junk, *Catalogus*, part 23, p. 136. A very variable species, colour from golden green to violaceous blue, elytra different from head and prothorax or upper side unicolorous, antennae with articles 2 to 4 (sometimes 5 also) testaceous, rufous or dark fuscous above, rufous below, prothorax fairly convex or rather flat, punctation uniform and rather close or sparse on the disc, especially in the anterior half, length 2·5 to 5 mm. The extreme forms may easily be mistaken for different species, but the intermediate forms make any division impossible. Frequent from Cape Town to the Cedarbergen and Zwartbergen, on flowers of various plants, especially Ficoideae, Selaginaceae and Compositae. *Dolichopsis cyanella* Gorh. (Trans. Ent. Soc. Lond., 1878, p. 155) is the same species and therefore a synonym.